



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 7, 2006

News Release

ICE agents in Alabama seize cocaine with a street value of more than \$1 million *Six people arrested in connection with drug smuggling attempt*

FAIRHOPE, AL.- A shipment of cocaine bound for the streets of Alabama with a wholesale value of more than \$330,000 and a street value of more than \$1 million was seized here yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

ICE special agents teamed up with inspectors of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as well as other agencies to arrest six people in the Point Clear area of Fairhope, Alabama, as they attempted to smuggle 36.8 pounds of cocaine into the country via a 40-foot sailboat. Those arrested were Henry Gresson, 47, from Auburn, Georgia; Gary Grist, 60, from Auburn, Georgia; Ospina Becerra, 30, a Colombia national; Jorge Agredo Trejos, a Colombian national; Blanca Quilambaqui, 40, an Ecuadorian national and Carlos Rodriguez-Rivera, an Ecuadorian national.

The last four individuals named, who were traveling on the vessel with the cocaine, were determined to be illegal aliens. They will be charged administratively for being in violation of immigration law. All six individuals are being held at the Metropolitan jail in Mobile, Alabama pending the outcome of their criminal case.

“Drug traffickers who think the Alabama coast is an easy way to bring drugs into the United States need to think again,” said Dwight McDaniel, assistant special agent-in-charge of ICE in Alabama. “ICE and our Department of Homeland Security partners are vigilant and will continue using all our resources and authorities to stop illegal contraband from entering the United States.”

ICE wants to acknowledge the outstanding role performed by CBP’s Air and Marine Branch and Border Patrol, the Port Director’s Inspection personnel office, the U.S. Coast Guard, the DEA Task Force, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Alabama Bureau of Investigations, the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office, the Mobile Police Department, the South Alabama Police Department, the Mobile County Sheriff’s Office and the Fairhope Police Department.

We encourage the public to report any suspicious activity linked to this case, or any other case by dialing ICE’s toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.